

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the second paragraph on page 2, lines 16-26 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

There are four main performance criteria for which prior materials for optical limiters fall short. First, these materials often do not have sufficiently high nonlinearity to limit the transmitted light intensity to below the levels at which the protected optical equipment would be damaged. Second, material response is often slow, making such materials ineffective in blocking very short high-intensity pulses. Third, such materials should, but often do not, recover very rapidly after a limiting event in order to minimize the impact of the event on normal operation of the system. Fourth, the materials ideally would transmit nearly all of the light at low intensity, and therefore would not degrade the normal operation of the system. In practice, these four performance criteria are often not ~~met~~ in a single optical limiter device.